

WT Energy Committee

Minutes

9.14.21

via Zoom

Present: Richard Andre, Ron Dagostino, Sue Hruby, Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner.
(*absent Geoff Freeman, Nicola Blake*)

1. **Minutes** of 8/10/2021 approved.

2. Discussion of School Flat Roof Replacement

Cost estimates for the roof are considerably higher than anticipated. \$257K approved in West Tisbury at town meeting, plus smaller amounts from Chilmark and Aquinnah. Projection is that roof replacement will cost \$500K plus an additional \$50K if roof insulation is increased from R30 to R48. Ron asked about payback for increased amount of insulation. Sue suggested that \$50K is not much in relation to the overall projected cost.

Kate agreed to ask the Cape Light Compact if there is a rule of thumb that could be applied to the increase in insulation that would give an idea as to payback.

3. Report on Green Communities Application

Kate reported that the GC application, being prepared by the CLC and due on October 8, will include a request for funds for lighting improvements at the Town Hall, Fire Station One and Library. The School lighting improvements will be covered in their entirety by the CLC. In addition, we are applying for \$25K for a custom grant to fund engineering studies and drawings to help us plan a way forward to greatly improve the School's energy performance. The estimated amount for this study was \$40K. If we are successful, the CLC has offered to give \$5K towards this and the School Dept. will try to provide the additional \$10K.

4. Discussion of changes to current membership and need for new members

The Energy Committee accepted resignations from both Geoff Freeman and Rebekah Thomson and hopes both will keep contributing to the island's energy efforts. In addition, it was thought that we should be recruiting new people as we need new members and the current members will need to be replaced over time.

It was felt we need both new members who have energy knowledge AND members who are well connected in our town community/ have good communication skills.

Ron suggested we hold an energy event at the Library where we present our overarching vision and some of the key objectives. We will begin with a brief introduction of the town and island energy picture and what we are trying to

accomplish. Then, it was thought that each of the energy committee members should speak and tell something of their energy stories and why they care about this work and how they have been engaged in it: on the committee and personally. It was also suggested that Cynthia Mitchell and Jen Rand might present how the Town is approaching the work. And then we would ask for people who might like to join the committee.

Kate will ask Alexandra Pratt when might be a good time after Nov 7 and before Thanksgiving and she will lay out a possible presentation for review by the Committee. Committee members will say what of their story they would like to tell so that we cover as broad a range of topics as possible.

5. Discussion of Energy Plan lay out

Thought to be a good approach. Liked idea that people sign up to take on the topic or topics that interest them. Good to work in pairs or threes so that things get done and so as to get different points of view.

Kate will post a list on Google Docs for people to put their names by as many topics as interest them. Then we can see how to approach it.

6. Discussion of Select Board work to manage climate related decisions in the Town.

It was asked what is now happening to coordinate with the Capital Improvements Committee. There was no knowledge of work being done by Cynthia Mitchell and Jen Rand as of this time.

7. **Energy questionnaire** has been posted on the Town website and an insert prepared for the next tax bill mailing. Aquinnah has also posted it, Edgartown and Oak Bluffs are working on posting it, Chilmark will send out the questionnaire via email later this month. ICAN asked people to fill it out on the West Tisbury website and the answers will be distributed to the town energy committees in which the respondents live.

Vineyard Power also has received 150 responses to a similar one that they sent out. The two sets of data will be incorporated at some point soon.

Meeting adjourned 9:45.

Next meeting is Wednesday October 6, 8:30 am